

**From:** Jrq007@aol.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Case

I have been concerned about the Department of Justice lawsuit against Microsoft. I began using Microsoft products in 1981 when I bought my first IBM microcomputer. Nothing in my lifetime has increased my productivity and work enjoyment as much as the microcomputer and Microsoft software. Their creativity and entrepreneurship helped millions of other people and me. I have worked at four universities and most recently as Vice President for Finance and Administration at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. I recently retired but was thinking back to 1981 when I bought six microcomputers and established three residence hall computer labs at Central Michigan University. I think these were the very first residence hall computer labs in the country. Many students benefited from those labs and the Microsoft software we used. From that early beginning I certainly could not have predicted the full impact of either the software or the microcomputer. I have been forever grateful to Bill Gates and all the Microsoft people for providing such productivity enhancements.

I am happy to hear that Attorney General John Ashcroft has ended the Department of Justice's three-year antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft with a settlement. I wholeheartedly agree with the Attorney General's decision to get it over with.

The complex agreement is full of provisions that will permanently change the software industry and I personally do not see a one that I would consider positive. Everything about the agreement seems to me to be aimed at reducing creative endeavor. The government even created an ongoing technical oversight committee to review Microsoft software codes, and to test Microsoft compliance to the agreement. Nevertheless, I am glad it is over.

What disturbs me is that some government officials and Microsoft competitors aren't satisfied with the decision and want tighter screws on Microsoft. I ask, "How far should the government go on these issues? Free enterprise needs a break!" My hope is that Microsoft will produce even better software in the future that will help all of us. I am doing some consulting now and my son is a software developer who uses all of Microsoft's development software. I don't want to see anything standing in the way of improved software.

Our tax money should be used to deal with the urgent matters of the day. In my opinion, the federal government doesn't need to take any more action on this issue. Please end the Microsoft lawsuit permanently.